Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) for protection against such forms of Tuberculosis.

Extraction of Crude from Chambang Oil Fields

*388. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petroluem Crude is being extracted from Chambang oil-fields in Wokha District of Nagaland;

(b) what is the quantum of crude being extracted daily and the quantum extracted from these oil fields till date;

(c) whether any royalty is being paid to the land-owners and the Government of Nagaland; if so, what is the rate therefor; and

(d) whether the crude extracted from Chambang oil fields is carried for refining?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 230 tons daily and 7.85,231 tons till 31-3-91.

(c) No payment has so far been made.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Recession of Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas

*389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human activity is bastening the recession of Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas as per a news item captioned "Human Activity wrecking glacier" which appeared in the *Times of India* dated 21st November, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a portion of the glacier crumbled in early October injuring several pilgrims; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to save the glacier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Various studies have shown that the Gangotri Glacier has been showing receding as well as advancing trends since 1818. It advanced till 1936 and has receded since 1937. As per field observations made from year 1986 to the year 1991, the glacier seems to be positioned almost at the same point suggesting that presently it is in a stage of equilibrium. The effect of human activities on the recession of Gangotri Glacier is not yet established. The general global warming is expected to have some effect on the glacier melting. The global warming is a world-wide phenomenon and it is difficult to predict future trends in regard to the glacier recession on this account.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken to protect the ecology of the Gangotri region :

(1) It is proposed to set up the Gangotri National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(2) A Special Area Development Authority has been constituted by the UP Government under the Chairmanship of Commissioner, Garhwal Division, UP to look into and take remedial action in respect of the environmental issues of the area.

(3) The revised Gangotri Development Master Plan will lay special stress on preserving the ecology and discouraging tourism in the area.

(4) The expeditions to the Gangotri area by various organisations and individuals will be discouraged.

(5) It is proposed to restrict the building activity in the area and to continue the ban on commercial felling of trees.